



Valley Forge National Historical Park Natural Resource Management

Job Title: Youth Conservation Corps Invasive Species Crew Leader, Natural Resource Management (1 position)

Deadline for Application Until position is filled

Job Description:

Major Functions:

Valley Forge National Historical Park is seeking qualified candidates for a Youth Conservation Crew (YCC) Leader (9 weeks) with the Division of Planning and Resource Management, Natural Resource Management Branch. The primary work of this position is to lead a crew of six (ages 15-18). The crew's primary duties will be to control and remove invasive plants and one invasive animal from the park.

Major duties include:

Crew Leadership. Crew Leader is responsible for the safety and day to day activities of the crew. He or she must ensure that crew members are punctual and efficient. Crew Leader must maintain morale. Crew Leader is responsible for disseminating and enforcing all park and YCC rules, regulations, and policies including but not limited to rules, regulations, and policies pertaining to safety and resource protection. If a problem arises that the Crew Leader cannot resolve, he or she must bring it immediately to the attention of the Ecologist.

Invasive Species Management. Crew Leader must learn to identify and control targeted invasive plants (including but not limited to mile-a-minute weed, zebra grass, autumn-olive, and wisteria) and the targeted invasive rusty crayfish. Crew leader will teach the crew how to identify and control these species. Control measures for plants will include hand pulling, cutting, and covering. Control measures for crayfish will include netting and may include trapping. The crew will not directly use herbicides, but the Crew Leader and crew will learn the principles of Integrated Pest Management, and may work near areas where herbicides are applied. The Crew Leader will be responsible for informing the crew about "keep out" areas that may have herbicide applications. These areas will be marked by flags or signs.

Educational activities. The Crew Leader will work with park staff to develop and provide educational activities. The Crew Leader will lead some educational activities and assist with instruction of others.

Benefits:

- Training related to specific activities as well as general park operations and management of the National Park System will be provided.
- Dorm-style housing available for rent.

Hiring Rate: \$14.31 per hour

Qualifications:

Must be a student enrolled for Fall 2010
Must possess a valid driver's license
Must be a US citizen
Ability to lead a group of teenagers
Ability to work independently and as part of a team
Excellent oral and written communication skills

Preferred: Major in a natural resource related field (e.g. wildlife and fisheries science, biology, urban and community forestry, forestry, environmental science, etc.) and/or

education related field with a minimum GPA of 2.5.
First Aid and CPR certification preferred.

Selected candidate will be required to undergo a mandatory background check (including fingerprinting) and drug test prior to starting work.

Activities will require the ability to hike up to 5 miles per day across varied terrain and to operate basic mechanical and electronic equipment (e.g. computer, gps unit, etc.). This experience will require work outside in inclement and hot weather.

Work Schedule: Full-time, five days per week (Monday-Friday), eight hours per day; 9 weeks, starting June 21.

How To Apply: Please submit the following in person, by fax, or mail to the contact below:

- Cover letter indicating the title of the position you are applying for
- Resume
- Writing sample indicating what you hope to gain through this experience and indicating the amount of experience you have with each of the topics below (no more than 3 pages):
 - Leadership, especially leading teenagers
 - Outdoor, natural resource related work
 - Plant and animal identification
 - Identification and control of invasive, non-native plants and animals or other pest species
- Transcript (official)
- Letter from your school (on school letterhead) confirming your student status or enrollment/acceptance for Fall of 2010
- Contact information for two academic or professional references

Park Information: Located approximately 20 miles northwest of center city Philadelphia, Valley Forge is the site of the 1777-1778 winter encampment of General George Washington and the Continental Army. The park receives 1.2 million visitors each year and contains about 3,500 acres of forested rolling hills, tall grass meadows, wetlands, and rough lawns. Recreational and cultural opportunities are abundant, including museums, theaters, concerts, fishing, boating, hiking, etc. For additional information please visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/vafo> or Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau at <http://www.valleyforge.org/>.

YCC Information

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is perhaps the most well recognized summer work youth program in the National Park Service. The YCC has been instrumental in introducing young Americans to conservation opportunities in national parks since the program was created in 1970.

YCC is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service established by Public Law 93-408.

Since its inception, the YCC has worked with many conservation agencies throughout the country to provide educational and team building skills to young people through participation in work projects. Hundreds of employees currently working in land management agencies were introduced to their profession through the YCC.

Contact Information:

Send Application Materials To:
Human Resources
Valley Forge National Historical Park
1400 North Outer Line Drive
King of Prussia, PA 19406
Attn: Reynard Small
Email: rey_small@nps.gov
Phone: 610-783-1042; Fax: 610-783-1012

Direct Supervisor:
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